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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/781,797	02/20/2004	Hiroto Inoue	1614.1386	5182
21171	7590	01/12/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			BLOUNT, ERIC	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2636	

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/781,797	INOUE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Eric M. Blount	2636	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-6 and 8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2 and 8 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 4-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 8 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 20 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>02202004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of **claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8** in the reply filed on October 17, 2005 is acknowledged.

Claim Objections

2. **Claim 8** is objected to because of the following informalities: It appears that the applicant has omitted the word "the" on line 6 between the words "of" and "receivers". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bloomquist et al [U.S. Patent No. 6,900,740 B1].

Regarding **claim 4**, Bloomquist discloses a communication device (110) comprising a first communicating means (column 1, lines 66-67) for performing communication using an ultra wideband wireless wave pulse (column 2, lines 1-5).

Bloomquist does not specifically disclose a communication controlling means, which searches for communicating means. However, Bloomquist discloses a first and

second communication means for establishing a communication network with one another (column 2, lines 39 and 40 and column 6, lines 50-55). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention by the applicant that the Intelligent Transportation System included rules for sharing data between communication means. The transceiver would function as a communication controlling means. When a signal is broadcast, each communication means in the broadcast range would receive the message and thus establish a network of communication devices. The teachings of Bloomquist reasonably appear to meet the limitation of the claim as presented.

As for **claim 5**, the communication device taught by Bloomquist can establish a communication network with a third communicating means which is located out of a communication area of the first communicating means but is located within the communication area of the second communicating means which communication has been established (column 6, line 50 – column 7, line 3).

As for **claim 6**, Bloomquist reasonably meets all of the limitations set forth by the claim. Please refer to the discussion of claims 4 and 5 above.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 1, 2, and 8** are allowed. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

- a. The prior art fails to sufficiently describe or suggest a communication device comprising a transmitter for transmitting a UWB pulse and a plurality of

receivers disposed equidistant from the transmitter wherein distance measuring equipment detects a distance or direction to an object based on reception times when each of the receivers receives the UWB pulse directly from the transmitter and from an object-reflected wave thereof.

Conclusion

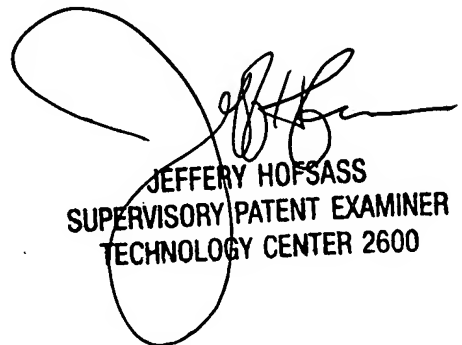
6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Fullerton, Richards, Hall, Santhoff et al, and Grisham et al, each disclose communication systems and methods using ultra wideband wireless wave pulses.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric M. Blount whose telephone number is (571) 272-2973. The examiner can normally be reached from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eric M. Blount
Examiner
Art Unit 2636



JEFFERY HOFSSASS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600